



**CALIFORNIA  
HIGH-SPEED RAIL  
AUTHORITY**

**Weekly Executive Director's Report, September 28-October 5, 2009**

**FROM:** Mehdi Morshed  
**TO:** Authority Board Members

**TOPIC / UPDATE**

**LINE SECTION**

**AUTHORITY STAFF**

**RELEVANT DATE**

**NEXT STEP / ACTION NEEDED**

**TOP ISSUES**

**ARRA Application**

Governor Schwarzenegger on Friday submitted California's application for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding reserved for High-Speed Intercity Rail. California applied for approximately \$4.7 billion from the \$8 billion pot, for construction projects in the Los Angeles - Anaheim, San Francisco - San Jose, and Bakersfield - Merced sections, as well as preliminary engineering and environmental work on all sections.

All

Mehdi Morshed,  
Tony Daniels

10/2/2009

The U.S. DOT has not indicated when it will make a determination and notification to fund recipients.

**Atherton Lawsuit**

The Authority's legal team today (10/5) will file its response to the petitioners proposed judgment, which was filed Sept. 24 and which argued that Judge Kenny should order a stay of all project-level work in the San Jose - Merced project section.

All

Christine Sproul

10/5/2009,  
10/9/2009

The court will hear argument on the matter on Friday, October 9th in Sacramento. The court may issue a tentative ruling on this matter on October 8th.

**POLICY DEVELOPMENTS**

**Meeting With Union Pacific**

The Executive Director and Program Director met on Oct. 1 with representatives of the Union Pacific Railroad and had a positive discussion regarding the Authority's proposals between San Jose and Gilroy.

Merced - San  
Jose

Mehdi Morshed,  
Tony Daniels

10/1/2009

Possibly meet again to discuss Central Valley and Southern California proposals.

### Meeting With Gateway Cities

The Executive Director met with Mayors, City Council members, City Managers, and representatives from LA Metro and the Orange County Transportation Authority to discuss the planned high-speed rail section between Los Angeles and Anaheim. The positive meeting established new lines of communication between the cities and the respective agencies, and will lead to the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the entities.

Los Angeles -  
Anaheim

Mehdi Morshed, Jeff  
Barker

10/2/2009

Bring draft MOU to November Board meeting for discussion.

### ENGINEERING/ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

Nothing to report this period.

### LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

#### Bills - SB 783 Remains on the Governor's Desk

Senate Bill 783 by Sen. Roy Ashburn was enrolled Sept. 10 and sent to the Governor's desk. This bill requires the High-Speed Rail Authority to prepare, publish, and adopt a business plan by January 1, 2012 and every two years thereafter.

Program

Steve Schnaidt

10/11/2009

The Governor has until October 11 to act on bills.

- Information about the bill can be viewed here:  
[http://leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill\\_number=sb\\_783&sess=CUR&house=B&author=ashburn](http://leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=sb_783&sess=CUR&house=B&author=ashburn)

### OUTREACH EFFORT HIGHLIGHTS

#### Teleconference ARRA Briefings

Prior to the Board action on the ARRA application, the Communications and Outreach team held teleconference briefings on the staff recommendation with stakeholders and policy leaders. The briefings were held for:

- Central Valley
- Bay Area
- Southern California

All

Jeff Barker

9/21-22/2009

Alternatives Analysis City Meetings

Regional project management and outreach are holding meetings with city staff from San Jose, Burlingame, South San Francisco, Sunnyvale, Belmont and San Carlos to discuss the alternatives analysis process and solicit comments and questions.

- The first public alternatives analysis meeting, held in San Carlos on Sept. 30, garnered significant attendance and press coverage. Additional public meetings will be held in Sunnyvale on Oct. 9 and San Francisco Oct. 13.

San Jose - San  
Francisco

Robert Doty,  
Dominic Spaethling

9/28/2009,  
10/2/2009,  
10/5/2009,  
10/7/2009,  
10/8/2009

More information is here:  
[http://cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/images/chsr/20090917112045\\_AAPublicOpenHouseMeetingsInvitationLetter.pdf](http://cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/images/chsr/20090917112045_AAPublicOpenHouseMeetingsInvitationLetter.pdf)

MEDIA

ARRA Application Deadline Events

The Communication and Outreach teams organized three events on Oct. 2 to mark the application deadline for High-Speed Intercity Rail from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Events were held in Los Angeles, San Jose, and Fresno, and were attended by local government officials, members of congress, Authority Board members, as well as representatives from business, labor, and environmental groups. Governor Schwarzenegger attended the LA event. The events led to significant media coverage of California's application statewide.

Statewide

Jeff Barker

10/2/2009

Editorials

Chairman Pringle and Board Member Katz attended an editorial board discussion with the *Los Angeles Times* on Sept. 30. The *Times* ran an editorial regarding California's high-speed rail ARRA application the following Sunday, Oct. 4.

- Additionally, Board member Diridon's discussion with the *San Jose Mercury-News* led to an editorial in that paper.

Statewide

Jeff Barker

10/4/2009

The editorial can be read here:  
<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/editorials/la-ed-rail4-2009oct04,0,3316018.story>  
• The *Mercury-News* editorial can be read here:  
[http://www.mercurynews.com/opinion/ci\\_13454751](http://www.mercurynews.com/opinion/ci_13454751)

**Twitter / Social Media**

The Authority officially launched its Twitter page in coordination with the ARRA deadline events and gathered more than 230 followers in its first weekend. Additionally, the Authority in tandem launched a Posterous site.

Statewide

Jeff Barker

10/2/2009

- The Twitter page can be viewed at [www.twitter.com/cahsra](http://www.twitter.com/cahsra).
- The Posterous site is at [cahsra.posterous.com](http://cahsra.posterous.com).

**Teleconference ARRA Briefing**

Prior to the Board action on the ARRA application, the Communications and Outreach team held a press teleconference call to walk reporters and editors through the specifics of the staff recommendation. The briefing led to newspaper coverage outlining the ARRA application process.

All

Jeff Barker

9/21/2009

**PUBLIC EVENTS**

**Burlingame Town Hall**

The city of Burlingame held a public town hall Saturday Sept. 26 focusing on high-speed rail in the Peninsula.

San Jose - San Francisco

Robert Doty and Dominic Spaethling represented the Authority

9/26/2009

**Palo Alto Design Workshop**

The city of Palo Alto sponsored a two-day design workshop to discuss the specifics of how a high-speed rail line is constructed and its options (i.e., grade separations, tunneling, etc.) and how the project could look through the city.

San Jose - San Francisco

Robert Doty, Dominic Spaethling attended on behalf of the Authority

10/3-4/2009

### San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Conference

The Authority's Central Valley Regional Director Bowen attended the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Conference, presenting a high-speed rail update to the group and participating in a panel discussion with Rep. Jim Costa and Kern County Supervisor Rubio. Valley government officials and transportation agency officials attended.

Merced -  
Bakersfield

Carrie Bowen

10/1-2/2009

### OTHER AUTHORITY BUSINESS

#### 2010/11 State Budget Process

Chief Deputy Director Pourvahidi met several times over this past week with the Department of Finance to discuss the Authority's staffing and budgetary needs for the 2010/11 fiscal year.

All

Carrie Pourvahidi

Provide the information requested by DOF in order to support the Authority's budget requests.

### LOOKING AHEAD...

#### Assembly, Labor Trip to D.C.

Assemblywoman Cathleen Galgiani plans another trip to D.C., along with a coalition of labor organizations, in support of California's ARRA high-speed rail application.

All

Steve Schnaidt

10/6-8/2009

#### Alternatives Analysis Public Meetings

A series of open house-style public meetings are scheduled to be held within the section to discuss alternative alignments. The dates, locations are as follows:

- San Jose, 10/6
- Merced, 10/8
- Gilroy, 10/12

Merced - San  
Jose

Jeff Barker

10/6-12/2009

More information is here:  
[http://cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/images/chsr/20090921153657\\_PostcardNoticeforOct2009AltAnalysisPublicMeetings.pdf](http://cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/images/chsr/20090921153657_PostcardNoticeforOct2009AltAnalysisPublicMeetings.pdf)

**Scoping Meetings**

Public, open house-style scoping meetings will begin within the section next week. The Federal Railroad Administration submitted the Notice of Intent (NOI) for circulation on 9/18.

Los Angeles -  
San Diego via  
the Inland  
Empire

Dan Leavitt, Jose  
Martinez

10/13/2009 -  
11/3/2009

**Scoping meetings:**

- 10/13/2009-La Jolla;
- 10/14/2009-San Diego;
- 10/15/2009-Escondido;
- 10/19/2009-Murrieta;
- 10/20/2009-Corona;
- 10/21/2009-Monterey Park;
- 10/22/2009-Riverside
- 10/26/2009-West Covina;
- 10/28/2009-El Monte;
- 10/29/2009-Pomona;
- 11/2/2009-Ontario;
- 11/3/2009-San Bernardino